

REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated May 19, 2006. Claims 1 and 3 to 14 are in the application, of which Claims 1 and 4 are independent. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for his indication that Claims 2 and 4 contain allowable subject matter. Based on that indication, the substance of Claim 2 has been incorporated into independent Claim 1, wherefore it is believed that all claims are now in condition for allowance.

Claims 1, 3 and 5 to 7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over U.S. Patent 6,256,132 (Ishibe) in view of European 1,122,579 (Kato), and Claims 8 to 10 were rejected over Ishibe in view of Kato, and further in view of U.S. Patent 7,015,940 (Kimura). The foregoing actions were taken without conceding the correctness of these rejection, and without prejudice or disclaimer of matter in an effort to expedite issuance of the subject application. Accordingly, this should be viewed as a traversal of the rejections.

New dependent Claims 11 to 14 depend from allowed independent Claim 4, and are therefore believed to be patentable.

No other matters being raised, it is believed that the entire application is fully in condition for allowance, and such action is courteously solicited.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa,
California office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to
our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael K. O'Neill", is written over a horizontal line.

Attorney for Applicant
Michael K. O'Neill
Registration No. 32,622

FITZPATRICK, CELLA, HARPER & SCINTO
30 Rockefeller Plaza
New York, New York 10112-3801
Facsimile: (212) 218-2200

CA_MAIN 115682v1